

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application No. 10/601,467

Applicant: WIMS, et al.

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Examiner: KARLSEN, Ernest F.

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DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

I, Lekia Townsend, do hereby declare and affirm under penalty of perjury that the facts stated hereinafter are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

1. I am currently employed by General Motors Corporation and am a listed inventor on the named patent application.
2. I am aware that the United States Patent and Trademark Office has asserted that certain elements of the present claims of the subject application are not adequately illustrated in the drawings so as to support the claimed invention under the patent rule 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a).
3. I understand that this rule states that conventional features disclosed in the description and claims whose detailed illustration is not essential to a proper understanding of the invention need not be illustrated in detail.
4. I am familiar with the technical subject matter to which this application pertains, and in particular with the technical aspects of pin receptors, prewiring, harness ports including those

with 56 pins, mapping board boxes including those having 560 pin receptors, harnesses including generic harnesses and those having 56 wires, and electronic simulators.

5. Those of skill in the art would not require any further illustration in order to fully understand the invention, as discussed in greater detail below. In other words, the features said to be lacking from the drawings are either already part of the drawings or are conventional features whose detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention.

6. With respect to "a plurality of pin receptors in electronic communication with the at least one harness port, the pin receptors adapted to communicate with a circuit printed on a circuit board with pins," the recitation of pins and receptors needs no further illustration to be understood. Those of skill with respect to circuits and circuit boards are intimately familiar with the appearance, features, and uses of pins and pin receptors. Moreover, a typical pin of a pinned board is clearly shown in Figure 4. The pin and receptor configuration (e.g., shape, material, etc.) are not dependent upon the number or arrangement of pins.

7. With respect to the claim aspect of a "mapping board box ... pre-wired to receive each of a plurality of circuit boards having different pin configurations," this element similarly needs no further illustration to be understood. As explained in the application itself, prewiring is wiring that exists prior to use such that the user need not manually supply the wiring. One of skill in this art would readily understand what it means to prewire a circuit and what would be entailed to prewire the mapping board box to accept multiple pin configurations.

8. With respect to the claim aspect of a harness port comprising 56 pins, this element needs no further illustration to be understood. In particular, those of skill in this art understand already what a harness port is and what a pin is. With this understanding, the fact that the harness port may have a certain number of pins, i.e., 56, is adequately conveyed by a mere statement to that effect in conjunction with the illustrated harness. An illustration of 56 individual pins on a port would be superfluous and would not enhance understanding of the invention in any way.

9. Similarly with respect to the claim aspect of a "mapping board box" comprising "560 pin receptors," a mapping board box is illustrated in at least Figure 5, and as discussed above, those of skill in the art are amply familiar with the appearance and use of pins and pin receptors. The number of pin receptors recited does not impact the way in which one of skill in the art would use each receptor. Thus, an additional illustration of 560 individual pin receptors within the illustrated mapping board box would be superfluous and would not enhance understanding of the invention in any way.

10. With respect to the claim aspect of a generic harness, harnesses are already shown in the Figures (see Figure 6). An additional illustration of a harness as "generic" is not necessary and in fact would complicate the drawings unnecessarily without enhancing understanding of the invention in any way. A generic harness is clearly a harness that can be reused for multiple circuit boards (see the published application at paragraph 30). Those of skill in this area would appreciate that the generic harness need not have any particular configuration, and could easily construct such a harness with no further information being given.

11. With respect to the limitation that the harness "comprises 56 wires," this element is easily understood without further illustration, and indeed, further illustration would complicate the drawings without enhancing understanding of the invention in any way. It is understood by those of skill in the art (and is clear from the application) that harnesses have wires. If the harness is to have 56 wires, then all that means is to include 56 wires in the harness. This concept is readily understood and is not dependent upon the specified number of wires. For example, if one of skill were told to instead include 57 wires, then this would be easily accomplished.

12. With respect to the claim aspect of "an electronic simulator," such simulators are conventional and are well known to those of skill in the art. The detailed illustration of such a simulator would be superfluous and would not enhance the understanding of the invention in any way.

12/07/06
Date

Lekia Townsend
Signature

Lekia Townsend
Name